

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A cushion pin interposed between a work and a die cushion, the cushion pin comprising:

_____ a pillar member; and

_____ an elastic material that is arranged coaxially with respect to the pillar member and produces a pushing force in an axial direction of the pillar member.

~~The cushion pin as claimed in claim 9, wherein the pillar member comprises: a bolt member attached to a first member; a sliding member disposed between a head of the bolt member and an end face of the first member; and a second member attached to an opposite end of the sliding member relative to the first member,~~

wherein the first member, the bolt member, the sliding member and the second member are coaxially aligned, and

wherein the elastic material is disposed around said bolt member and in said sliding member.

11. (Previously Presented) The cushion pin as claimed in claim 10, wherein the sliding member is slidable relative to the bolt member and the first member.

12. (Previously Presented) The cushion pin as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a spacer disposed between the elastic material and the end face of the first member.

13-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A load supplying device, which is interposed between a cushion pin and a die cushion pad, comprising:

a first member fixed to an upper face of the die cushion pad;

a pillar member; and

an elastic member that is arranged coaxially with respect to the pillar member and produces a pushing force in an axial direction of the pillar member,

wherein the pillar member comprises: a bolt member attached to a first member; a sliding member is disposed between a head of the bolt member and an upper face of the first member; and a second member attached to an opposite end of the sliding member relative to the first member;

wherein the bolt member, the sliding member and the second member are coaxially aligned, and

wherein the elastic member is disposed around the bolt member and in the sliding member.

17. (Previously Presented) A die cushion, wherein the load supporting device as claimed in claim 16 is fixed to the upper face of the die cushion pad.

18. (Previously Presented) A press machine using the die cushion as claimed in claim 17.

19. **(Previously Presented)** A load supporting device, which is interposed between a cushion pin and a die cushion pad, comprising:

a pillar member; and

an elastic member that is arranged coaxially with respect to the pillar member and produces a pushing force in an axial direction of the pillar member,

wherein the pillar member comprises: a bolt member attached to an upper face of the die cushion pad; a sliding member disposed between a head of the bolt member and the upper face of the die cushion pad; and an upper member attached to an opposite end of the sliding member relative to the upper face of the die cushion pad,

wherein the bolt member, the sliding member and the upper member are coaxially aligned, and

wherein the elastic member is disposed around the bolt member and in the sliding member.

20. **(Previously Presented)** A die cushion, wherein the load supporting device as claimed in claim 19 is fixed to the upper face of the die cushion pad.

21. **(Previously Presented)** A press machine using the die cushion as claimed in claim 20.

22. **(Cancelled)**